

Message Text

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64

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

SAJ-01 ACDA-05 /086 W

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R 271710Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5381

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY VALETTA

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAININGEN GERMANY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 1367

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, IT

SUBJ: BRANDT'S REMARKS ON PCI WIDELY REPORTED IN ITALY

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1. GERMAN SOCIALIST LEADER WILLY BRANDT'S COMMENTS TO SPIEGEL FAVORING "INFORMATIVE CONTACTS" WITH WESTERN COMMUNIST PARTIES, AND CREDITING DEMOCRATIC TENDENCIES OF PCI, GIVEN WIDE, IF NOT PROMINENT, COVERAGE IN ITALIAN MEDIA. STATEMENTS PUTTING PCI IN MOST FAVORABLE LIGHT READ ON NATIONAL TELEVISION NEWS. ENSUING DEBATE IN GERMANY BEING REPORTED WITH OBVIOUS INTEREST, BUT SO FAR LITTLE COMMENT.

2. COMMENT: INTERNAL GERMAN DEBATE MUST HAVE AN AIR OF UNREALITY FOR ITALIAN POLITICAL COMMUNITY WHERE CONSIDERABLY MORE THAN "INFORMATIVE" CONTACTS WITH PCI BY DC HAVE BEEN THE RULE FOR YEARS. NEVERTHELESS, TO EXTENT THAT BRANDT'S STATEMENTS ACCREDIT THE PCI AS A DEMOCRATIC PARTY, THEY MUST REDUCE ITALIAN PUBLIC'S FEARS REGARDING THE NEGATIVE INTERNATIONAL CONSEQUENCES THE HISTORIC COMPROMISE WOULD HAVE. VOLPE

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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To: STATE
Type: TE
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